

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission
Minutes
September 20, 2006

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, September 20th, by Dawn Higgins, Chairperson, at 7:35 p.m. Also in attendance were Commissioners Rick Feldman, Angela Frye, Joe Kresser, Angela Wallace and Park Director Adam Payne. Candy DeFillippis arrived at 8:50. Absent was Commissioner Terry Finnegan. Borough Manager Richard Sheola and Deputy Mayor Andrew Turner were also in attendance.

Review of Past Minutes

After a few minor corrections, a motion was made by Joe Kresser to approve the minutes from the September 6th meeting, seconded by Angela Wallace. Motion passed.

Correspondence

A letter was received regarding a grant writing workshop. Candy DeFillippis will attend.

A letter was received from the Swim Team officers. The letter was also signed by many parents of Swim Team members. Rick Feldman suggested tabling discussion of this letter until more information is available. Ann Kilduff will invite the Swim Team officers to a November meeting.

A letter was received regarding a ribbon cutting ceremony at Commerce Bank.

Open Public Session

A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Joe Kresser, to open the public session of the meeting. Motion passed.

Pavilion Status Update

Mr. Sheola agrees with the Commission that the driveway leading to the pavilion is not handicap accessible, but said he didn't know it needed to be. As is, the driveway meets the standards of a driveway. There seems to have been a miscommunication regarding the plans. Mr. Sheola stated that the driveway will be extended within the next few weeks when School Street is paved. He will speak to Bob Miller about correcting the steepness of the driveway and see to it that the sides are backfilled as well. Joe Kresser would like to see the driveway repaired properly, not just a quick fix. Joe asked who is held responsible. Mr. Turner replied the Borough Engineer is responsible for making sure the driveway is up to code. In regards to the pavilion itself, Dawn Higgins stated, and Mr. Sheola agreed, that there are things at the pavilion that are still not completed properly.

Railroad Avenue Status Update

A brief discussion took place regarding the denial of the Green Acres loan. Mr. Turner feels the Commission should reapply and ask to be placed on top of the list. Dawn Higgins will contact Cecile Murphy and Jeff Bottiger.

Borough Park Stadium Light Status Update

Mr. Sheola spoke to Lucas Electric yesterday regarding the problem with them driving on the field and the wires left exposed. He explained to them that no more work is to be done until the Commission gets and approves a schedule.

Pool Renovation Project Status Update

A discussion took place regarding the one bid that came in for the pool project which was too high. Mr. Sheola explained why only one bid came in. He feels the advertisement received good coverage, but two of the four interested companies had a lot of back work, one was going to bid and one actually did. Mr. Sheola stated the Recreation Commission needs to make a strong recommendation to Council as to what they think should be done. They also need to ask the bidder to hold the price. Rick Feldman asked where the bid specs are for the sewer that was to be done at the same time. Mr. Sheola said it will be another one to two weeks before the bids are finished. Mr. Sheola feels the Recreation Commission has two options: 1) ask for additional funds for next year or 2) try to re-bid. Mr. Turner suggested looking into federal funding, as the handicap assessable ramp could possibly be covered. Mr. Turner also suggested budgeting for a grant writer. Dawn Higgins feels Council should hire a grant writer so the services can be utilized by all departments. Mr. Turner recommended seeking corporate donations since the borough has experienced growth and has no adequate recreation facility.

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session at 8:38 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, real estate, and/or legal matters was made by Joe Kresser, seconded by Rick Feldman. Motion passed.

This session included Borough Manager Richard Sheola and Deputy Mayor Andrew Turner.

A motion was made to close the Executive Session at 9:01 p.m. by Rick Feldman, seconded by Joe Kresser. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Turner mentioned a letter that Council received regarding the unsafe playground equipment not being removed. There seems to have been a miscommunication as to what needed to be removed. Mr. Turner feels the Recreation Commission should have been more specific and communicated with a letter or in a monthly report. Mr. Sheola suggested using caution tape to specify what needs to be looked at in the future.

A brief discussion took place about the park. Someone has been piling woodchips by the shed and they need to be removed. Mr. Turner stated he would like to see surveillance cameras in the park. Candy DeFillippis stated that the Railroad Company chopped down trees and left them there. Dawn asked Mr. Sheola if he spoke to the Police Chief regarding more enforcement in the park. He had and there will be more police coverage in the future. When asked who owns the park truck, Mr. Sheola said it is on loan to the Recreation Commission.

Richard Sheola, Andrew Turner and Joe Kresser left the meeting at this point.

A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Angela Wallace that it be the recommendation of the Recreation Commission that the Borough not give in to Centex, but instead, go to litigation over the sod. All Commissioners were in favor. Motion passed.

Park Director's Report

Adam Payne reported the stadium lights were removed on September 8th. The Commission was told Lucas Electric would not drive on the field; however, the crane was driven into the field and left big ruts. Lucas Electric returned to fix them as well as the rebar that was left sticking out of all the foundations.

Dawn asked Adam to send a letter John Burd regarding use of the truck for the remainder of the fall, and to ask him if he can take it for maintenance after that. Adam will also ask John if he can borrow any equipment for fall cleanup. Adam will call local pools to see what companies they use for winterizing and give Rick a list by Monday. Per Rick, the pool supervisor should be asked to stop working immediately. Adam will provide Rick with a list of what needs to be done through the end of the year. Dawn will send the Borough Manager an e-mail about two trees by the basketball court that need to be removed.

Adam prepared a summary of damages and vandalism to the park in the past year. Dawn stated that Council wants to know the cost of everything in order to submit it to the insurance company. Adam will get the replacement costs for everything that happened this year by the next meeting.

The plexiglas for the kiosk is in the office and needs to be put up as soon as possible. Adam started cleaning the graffiti off the pavilion tables and Dawn called the vendor regarding the patchwork for the one table. Candy DeFillippis would like to see the shed ramp put into the shed when not in use to prevent skateboarders from using it.

Adam will fix the holes under the fence caused by erosion and look into replacing the railing on Route 31 with a wrought iron railing instead of a wooden one.

Treasurer's Report

The Appropriation Account Summary report was distributed and discussed. Rick Feldman reminded everyone to contact him before making any purchases.

Commissioner Reports

Field Hockey

Candy DeFillippis reported that the season is going well. There seems to be a problem with the goals being broken when mishandled by the soccer coaches. Per Rick, Adam will e-mail Terry Finnegan of this situation.

New Business

T&M Proposal

Dawn Higgins has a proposal of Teaneck's 5-year plan to use as an example.

Miscellaneous

The Oath of Office was administered to new Commissioner, Angela Frye.

Unfinished Business

Little League

This has been tabled until the next meeting.

All other agenda items were discussed during the Open Public Session with Mr. Sheola and Mr. Turner.

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session at 10:16 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, real estate, and/or legal matters was made by Angela Wallace, seconded by Rick Feldman. Motion passed.

A motion was made to close the Executive Session at 10:25 p.m. by Rick Feldman, seconded by Angela Frye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Angela Wallace to refund Cynthia Teddick \$90.00 for swim lessons. Motion passed.

Commission Requests and/or Remarks

Dawn Higgins will contact Jeff Bottiger and ask him to come to the October 4th meeting to discuss the 5-year plan and the pool project.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:30 p.m. by Angela Wallace, seconded by Candy DeFillippis. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff